8: Hockings E-5 (1962-1977) 1982 AN50 Badaga AN50

As in any society, the family among the Badagas does not show one kind of structure only. A sample of 420 Badagas of both sexes, in 1963, revealed the range of households indicated in Table 5. I equate "family" with "household" here because among Badagas the residential unit is equally a commensal unit of a kind that is always recognized to be a family. What this table emphasizes is that only about 15% of Badaga households are joint families, and only about 3% are polygynous, even though both of these types are acceptable, and indeed the former is considered the ideal. It is an ideal which cannot however be realised continuously over a long period of time. There is a natural cycle of growth, florescence, and decline in the Badaga family, a cycle whose stages are approximately the same as the sequence of the first eight household types listed in Table 5. Once a household contains several brothers with their wives and children, it usually becomes necessary for them to split up into a number of nuclear families occupying different homes because there is no longer enough physical space and cooking facilities for all of them in what is typically a three-roomed house. It is noteworthy that in 1963 only 4.3% of the respondents belonged to a full joint family in which both of the grandparents were still living. This fact should be viewed against the backdrop of Table 1, which indicates that 19% of the male sample had more than one owned house available to them. Where alternative housing is available within the family the joint residential unit, no longer a necessity, may cease to seem so virtuous or practicable to its members either.

TABLE 5

Badaga Household Structure

	Respondents' households
Nuclear family:	
Living alone, or with spouse	45.2%
Couple with children	19.8%
Mother with unmarried children	0.7%
Father with unmarried children	13.3%
Sub-Total:	79.0%
Joint family:	
Parents, sons, their wives and children	4.3%
Mother, sons, their wives and children	5.5%
Father, sons, their wives and children	3.6%
Several siblings with spouses and their children	2.1%
Sub-Total:	15.5%
Polygynous family:	2.9%
Other, supplemented nuclear or joint families:	2.6%
	(N=420)